

DOTRA'S.....DOTLine.....



ISSUE NO. 102

February 2018

A Publication of the New Jersey Department of Transportation Retirees Association Inc.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Clint Griggs

On behalf of the DOTRA Board of Directors I wish all a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year, 2018.

With this new year comes many changes for New Jersey. Most notably, a new Democratic Governor, Phil Murphy. We all hope he keeps his promise to take good care of our pensions.

While you are reading this issue of DOTLine, Steffan Franklin and our Florida members are putting the final touches on their annual get together in Cape Canaveral. Here's wishing for a great time to be had by all.

Read on to find the details on our "Spring Social" scheduled for March 14, 2018 at the Golden Dawn Restaurant (barring another major winter storm!). We had a great time there last year and hope to see you there this time around. (See attached flyer to RSVP.)

We have a very special article by Dot Andres in our Here and There Column. You don't want to miss it! It celebrates a very important milestone for one of our members.

The end of the year is a popular time for folks to retire from state service. If you know of someone who has just taken the big step, please be sure to encourage them to join DOTRA. We know they won't regret it.

We are still welcoming any and all comments and communications from you our members, so we can all keep in touch and up to date. It is still a great thrill to hear from former co-workers. Keep sending info to us.

The DOTRA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Ann Fratticcioli to the Board. Ann is working to bring us into the 21st century.... tech- wise. Welcome aboard, Ann!

Let's hope that Winter loosens its tight grip on us and ushers in an early Spring. I think we are all more than ready for it! Keep safe and warm and "Think Spring".

Our mailing address:

**DOTRA
PO BOX 77160
WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628**

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPRING BREAKFAST

March 14, 2018

Golden Dawn Diner - Restaurant

(See attached flyer for details)

DOTRA REUNION IN FLORIDA

February 13, 2018

Milliken's Reef

683 Dave Nisbet Dr., Cape Canaveral, Fl.
(See details under DOTRA Reunion in Florida)

DOTRA ON THE INTERNET!!

You can read the current issue of the DOTLine on the Website - as well as check back issues!!!

Log onto DOTRA's own Web Site:

<http://www.dotra.org>

DOTRA BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS

DOTRA continues to hold its regular monthly meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. All are invited to attend. Hope to see you there. Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday – March 6, 2018 at 11 AM at Tessara’s Restaurant, 812 Route 33, Hamilton Twp.** Our business meeting starts at 11 AM followed by a Dutch-treat luncheon. Schedule of future meetings at Tessara’s:

April 3, 2018
May 1, 2018
June 5, 2018

2018 DUES were due January 1, 2018!!!

If you haven’t paid your dues yet, please do so NOW!!!

Check your Mailing Label to see if you are paid up for 2018!! Electronic “mailers” have been notified by e-mail! Don’t forget to notify DOTRA if you have a change of address. This is especially important for Life members and those who receive DOTLine electronically.

DOTLine ELECTRONICALLY

If you are willing to receive your DOTLine via electronic mailing, please submit your email address to us at:

DOTRAexpress@yahoo.com

The Transporter is now available to retirees on the DOTRA website at <http://www.dotra.org>, with the 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2016 issues already posted. Future issues will be posted on a quarterly basis.

DOTRA EXECUTIVE BOARD & OFFICERS

President	Clint Griggs	609-888-0115
1st Vice Pres.	Jay Johnston	609-588-0930
2nd Vice Pres.	Gerry Sellner	609-737-1665
Treasurer	Frank Stia	609-882-3862

Asst. Treasurer	Lou Papp	609-585-7697
Recording Sec.	Andrea Mansfield	609-890-9497
Corres. Sec.	Donna Troiano	609-298-5962

DIRECTORS/TERM OF OFFICE

Donna Troiano (18)	Dot Andres (18)
Mike Eckel (18)	Gerry Sellner (18)
Andrea Mansfield (18)	John Rainiero (19)
Bruce Strickland (19)	Bob Miller (19)
Lou Papp (19)	Clinton Griggs (19)
Frank Stia (19)	Joe Bodnar (20)
Frank Palise (20)	Janis Stia (20)
Jay Johnston (20)	Ann Fratticcioli (20)

COMMITTEES

Audit	Frank Palise	609-896-2011
Chaplain	Jay Johnson	609-588-0930
Membership	Janis Stia	609-882-3862
By-Laws	Vacant	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Historian	Mike Eckel	609-499-9225
Activities	Vacant	xxx-xxx-xxxx
DOTLine	Frank Palise	609-896-2011
Database	Gerry Sellner	609-737-1665
Website	Bruce Strickland	505-847-3300
DOT Memorial	Jim Dixon	609-298-3398
Nominating	Joe Bodnar	609-298-6260

Directors Emeritus

Adrian Lincoln, Margaret "Peg" Wieger, Hazel Rockhill, Phil Vecere, and Chet Andres

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Janis Stia

During the last three months, the following new members have joined DOTRA:

Isler, Jake	Construction & Maintenance
Nizolek, John Jr.	Electrical Bureau
Kontura, John III	Region Central Construction
Schutz, Jo Anne	Region Central Construction
Conrey, James F.	Project Management

Welcome to all!

CHAPLIN'S REPORT

By Jay Johnston

We would like to be informed about any retiree who has passed away, is ill, confined to their home, in a rehabilitation center, or needs help in one way or another. Please send any information to me at:

3 Golden Crest Court, Hamilton N.J. 08691

Phone: **609-588-0930**,

E-mail: **jay050645@yahoo.com**

RECENT OBITUARIES

Scott Allen	54
Arthur Carl*	
Donald Groffie	88
Joseph G. Huggler	87
Don Hutchinson*	86
Edward Praisner*	

***Denotes DOTRA Member**

NJDOT EMPLOYEE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

By Jim Dixon

The Employee Memorial Committee wishes all a Happy New Year for 2018! The committee had a very successful Silent Auction on December 7th and 8th. About 135 Baskets were sold in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Jack Freidenrich Building, along with some individual items such as pictures, etc. Please see accompanying pictures of the baskets in the Multi-Purpose Room.

I also want to mention that the 50th Transportation Anniversary Canvas, signed by hundreds of NJDOT employees has been hung on the wall outside the cafeteria in the Freidenrich Building. Our next meeting was on January 25th for setting a schedule of events for 2018.



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

By Clint Griggs



On December 13, 2017 DOTRA held its annual Holiday Luncheon at Mercer Oaks, coordinated by Janis Stia. Our thanks to Janis for another wonderful DOTRA event. Everyone who attended had a very enjoyable afternoon of delicious food and great



fellowship. There were even a few new faces in the crowd! We enjoyed a photo-slide display of the NJDOT Employee Memorial and the 911 ceremonies from past years. It may be a little early, but make sure you mark your 2018 calendars to attend this year's event, you'll be glad you did. Again, our thanks to Janis for making the Holiday special for DOTRA.

DOTRA TRIPS

By Jay Johnston

DOTRA trips for 2018 have not been finalized yet. As trips are developed they will be announced in future newsletters.

SPRING BREAKFAST

By Joe Bodnar

It's that time of year again, so get ready to attend our spring breakfast. We will again have the breakfast at the Golden Dawn Diner-Restaurant on White Horse-Mercerville Road, Hamilton Township, Mercer County on March 14 at 9:30 AM and is a "BUFFET" style. Anyone having difficulty negotiating a buffet-don't let that stop you from attending. Members of the Board of Directors in attendance will gladly assist those having difficulty. For further information please see the enclosed flyer. Hope to see you there.

HERE AND THERE

By Dot Andres

DOTRA's Annual Holiday Luncheon was a big success - as always. I was not there - keeping warm a thousand miles away in Florida - but missed seeing and visiting with our faithful members and friends who support the DOTRA activities. As always, there was a last-minute surge of "attendees" - always giving some indigestion to Janis Stia who is attempting to get an accurate count of attendees to the caterer. Somehow - it always works. Thanks Janis and Frank Stia and the Board Members who come together and make it work.

Received a nice note in the DOTRA mailbox from Ellen McCourt (Data Processing) just before the luncheon. Ellen and partner Steve are faithful attendees of the Holiday Party but were unable to attend this year for a very good reason. Ellen and Steve were participating in the annual Washington D.C. event at the National Cemetery for the "Wreaths Across America" on that day. Ellen says to "tell everyone I said hello and a Merry Xmas!"

DOTRA South is having its annual Florida Reunion on Tuesday February 13th - thanks to organizer Steffan Franklin. Florida is a big state and difficult to "find a middle location" that is halfway for most people. The location is close to where it all started - Rockledge Country Club - which was arranged by Bill Birkhead (Construction) more than 20 years ago. See the aforementioned article by Steffan for details.

DOTRA Reunion in Florida

By Steffan Franklin

Our DOTRA Reunion Luncheon in Florida for 2018 will be held on Tuesday, February 13th at 12 Noon for cocktails and 1:00 PM for lunch. It is being held at Milliken's Reef, 683 Dave Nisbet Dr., Cape Canaveral, Fl. - Tel# 321-783-0100. We now have only 14 persons attending, so let's try to attend. If you are far away get a room and enjoy the sights and take a mini VA.

There are great places to stay and visit, such as: the Kennedy Space Center Visitors Complex - 5 min. away; the Vallant Air Command Warbird Museum and Astronauts Hall of Fame off of Rt US1 - 5 min. away; and the Air Force Space and Missile Museum, Cape Canaveral - 5 min. away.

It is so nice to see everyone that you haven't seen in a long time and reminisce about the past to each other. I hope to see more attending this year and especially the ones I have not seen in a long time.

Please respond to me ASAP, for I need to let the restaurant know how many are attending.

**Contact: Steffan Franklin @ 732-713-6263
stefranklin@aol.com**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CALLIE OLEXY

By Dot Andres

Congratulations to our long-time member Callie Olexy (C&M). Callie will be celebrating her 101st birthday on February 10th! WOW!!



Callie started her journey in the NJDOT in 1963 in the LAB - working in the then Bureau of Materials for Bob Leahey. A journey through the old Lab, then Bureau of Inspection on

Lower Ferry Road and always quietly supporting a large number of names familiar to many of us. Officially retiring in 1991 from the "paid" portion of her work

career there, Callie came back once a week and volunteered at the Main Desk in the "MAIN BUILDING" for another 10 years.

Born in Easton, PA, the oldest in a family of seven Siblings, she has always been proud of her Greek heritage. Loved sports and football and going to the "Jersey shore." Daughter Janis Olexy Stia and son in law Frank Stia are DOTRA Directors. Callie always says with a laugh that her elixir for her youth is "olive oil."

She has since given up driving her CAR – Mercedes, which she loved. She now resides at Brandywine Senior Living Center - 143 West Franklin Ave., in Pennington, NJ 08543. Congratulations to Callie upon reaching this milestone and giving us the pleasure of knowing a very special person!! SEND CALLIE YOUR BIRTHDAY WISHES !!!!

DOTRA's PROJECT OUT REACH **CONTACTING OUR MEMBERS**

By Dot Andres

A YEAR AGO the DOTRA Board of Directors attempted to reach out to the almost 400 members on our 2017 DOTRA Membership List. We tried e-mailing and making personal phone calls to the phone numbers listed in our most current records. It was a lot of work - our results were only Fair – maybe even POOR!

We know you folks who are reading this issue must have seen we were making this "big appeal" for news from you. Did you answer?? Our next threat is to resort to "Fake News." Now that has caused enough problems without DOTRA adding to it!!!

We are updating our Membership List, deleting those whose mail has been returned and those who have not paid the nominal dues for 3 years or more. We will no longer mail or include these names on our e-mail listing. Hopefully, you are not one of those names - if you think so contact us ASAP at:

DOTRAexpress@yhoo.com

LAST WORD...You have the last word. Maybe someday you will tell us what it is....

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWALS

() **NEW** APPLICATION FOR DOTRA MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00/ YEAR _____
- \$75.00 LIFE MEMBERSHIP _____

(FILL IN FORM COMPLETELY)

() **RENEWAL** OF DOTRA MEMBERSHIP FOR YEAR _____ CHECK FOR \$10.00 ENCLOSED

() REQUEST FOR **LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN DOTRA** _____ CHECK FOR \$75.00 IS ENCLOSED
(Converting from annual membership)

() **CHANGE OF ADDRESS** (FILL IN NAME ADDRESS,-both snail mail and email, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

() PLEASE ADD **YOUR COMMENTS** FOR INCLUSION IN AN UPCOMING DOTLine.

NAME: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

STREET/ PO BOX: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

TOWN/ CITY: _____ **COUNTY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

FORMER UNIT WITHIN NJDOT: _____ **YEARS WORKED** _____ **YEAR RETIRED** _____

I WOULD LIKE TO WORK ON A DOTRA COMMITTEE _____

COMMENTS: _____

Send Application and Check to: "DOTRA" – PO BOX 77160, WEST TRENTON, NJ 08628

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RETIREES ASSOCIATION